

aetiology many are in fact genetic in origin, due to recessive inheritance. Primary treatment of deafness is not yet possible, for congenital deafness is still an irreversible condition. Treatment must concentrate on overcoming the disability and here earlier diagnosis and treatment is all-important. Henderson points out that with earlier and more accurate diagnosis an increased proportion of children are being taught as partially deaf and fewer as deaf.

Because of the importance of early diagnosis the discussions of tests of hearing concentrate mainly on babies and very young children. The variety of methods described shows that there is still no generally accepted ideal method. Some differences depend on differences in purpose of the tests, e.g. quick screening tests or the full diagnostic assessment of the otologist. Others depend on the testers' concepts of what is meant by hearing. This fundamental aspect is discussed, as well as the details of what sounds to use and how to estimate the response.

EDITH WHETNALL

### **Psychotherapy: a dynamic approach**

by Paul A Dewald MD

pp xvii + 307 42s

*Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications 1964*

This book is compact although running into 300 pages. It is divided into three sections. Section I deals with general psychoanalytic theory. This part is concentrated but easy to follow. Section II deals with psychopathology and is illustrated with brief clinical examples of the various defence mechanisms that are encountered.

The major part of the book appears in Section III which deals with the theory and technique of psychotherapy. The evaluation of the patient and the indications for supportive treatment as against full analysis are clearly described, as are the different situations met with in treatment.

This book should prove of value to those interested in psychotherapy, especially if they are taking on patients for treatment under supervision.

D W LIDDELL

### **Clinical Endocrinology**

by Laurence Martin MD(Camb) FRCP(Lond)

4th ed pp vii + 306 illustrated 36s

*London: J & A Churchill 1964*

This deservedly popular and concise textbook of endocrinology has always managed to strike a good balance between the clinical situation and the essential links with both physiology and pathology, and the latest (4th) edition well maintains this tradition. The task of selecting from the last three years' progress the most appropriate new material has been well done. Almost all sections have received some alteration or addition to

bring them up to date, yet the book still remains a very convenient size. The section on the thymus has been omitted, but four fresh ones have been added. One of these reviews endocrine contraception and concludes that it should only be used when other methods of contraception are either ineffective or impossible. A section on the Stein-Leventhal syndrome gives a very fair account of recent views of the endocrine basis of this syndrome.

The value of the recently introduced rapid immunological tests for pregnancy is discussed. Positive results show almost complete reliability like the Hogben tests. But negative results with the new tests prove to be much more reliable than negative Hogben tests, probably because they become positive earlier in pregnancy. In a brief account of the use of metyrapone to test pituitary reserve the advice that urine collections should be continued for four days after giving the drug is wise, but the dose advised is less than the majority of workers employ and is scarcely sufficient to ensure full drug action in every case. Unjustified faith is also shown in the value of urine 17-oxosteroids as a measure of adrenal response to ACTH. But the book is nevertheless an excellent introduction to endocrinology for both students and general clinicians.

C L COPE

### **Child Health in the Tropics**

edited by D B Jelliffe

MD FRCP FAPHA DCH DTM&H

2nd ed pp v + 152 9s

*London: Edward Arnold 1964*

This excellent distillate by Professor Jelliffe and his high-powered team is designed for medical auxiliaries, nurses, health visitors and paramedical personnel. It is too elementary for practitioners.

How good to see it stated clearly that poor hygiene, poverty, and 'not knowing' (a term I prefer to ignorance) do not cause any special tropical disease but simply disease. Similarly the motto 'not more but better children' pinpoints a problem, though the impossibility, at this stage, of family limitation is admitted.

The tremendous importance of breast feeding is stressed repeatedly, as are the dire consequences of unsophisticated mothers, encouraged by the mass media, emulating their bottle-feeding sisters outside the tropics. The great value of regular weighing is rightly emphasized. The chapter on nutrition (starting with the often forgotten fact that 'infant feeding begins in the uterus') and on all important aspects of malnutrition is excellent. The introduction of high-protein foods in addition to breast milk at 5 or even 3 months is rightly urged.